

What is claimed is:

1. An Internet Portal, comprising:
  - an Internet-connected server; and
  - 5 a portal software executing on the server;
  - wherein the Portal, in response to log-on by a user from a user's Internet-connected appliance, presents a secure and personalized page for the user, the personalized page having a list of Internet destinations enabled by hyperlinks, wherein, upon invocation of a hyperlink by the user, the
  - 10 portal invokes a URL for the destination, and upon connection with the destination, transparently provides any required log-on information required for user access at the destination.
2. The Internet Portal of claim 1 wherein required log-on information
- 15 includes a password, and wherein the password is stored at the Internet Portal in an encrypted form, and is exchanged with cooperating software at the user's appliance, where it is decrypted and passed on to the destination for log-on.
- 20 3. The Internet Portal of claim 1 wherein the user connects to the Portal through an Internet Service Provider (ISP), and after transparent log-on to an invoked destination, the page at the destination is conveyed to and displayed for the user.
- 25 4. The Internet Portal of claim 1 wherein the Portal is enabled by software executing at a server hosted by an Internet Service Provider (ISP) to which the user subscribes.

5. The Internet Portal of claim 1 further comprising a search function adapted to search selected ones of listed destinations for defined search criteria.

5      6. The Internet Portal of claim 1 wherein, after a user invokes a hyperlink, during navigation time to the invoked destination, the Portal software accesses and displays one or more informative displays to the user.

7. The Internet Portal of claim 6 wherein the informative displays comprise  
10 one or more advertisements.

8. The Internet Portal of claim 1 wherein the Portal software, interacting with a logged-on user, upon the user creating a new account at a WEB site and providing a pre-determined signal, automatically adds the new  
15 destination for the user's Portal page.

9. The Internet Portal of claim 1 wherein the Portal periodically summarizes account information for accounts at destinations listed on the user's WEB page.

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10. The Internet Portal of claim 9 wherein the summarization is automatic in period and scope, subject to edit by the user.

11. An Internet Portal, comprising:  
25            an Internet-connected server; and  
             a portal software executing on the server;  
             wherein the portal interacts with a browser plug-in executing on a user's Internet-connected appliance, such that, when the user invokes a destination from the browser, wherein the destination requires a secure log-

on, the portal software cooperates with the browser plug-in to furnish the data necessary for a successful log-on transparent to the user.

12. The Internet Portal of claim 11 wherein required log-on information includes a password, and wherein the password is stored at the Internet Portal in an encrypted form, and is exchanged with cooperating software at the user's appliance, where it is decrypted and passed on to the destination for log-on.

13. The Internet Portal of claim 11 wherein, after a user invokes a hyperlink, during navigation time to the invoked destination, the Portal software cooperates with the user's browser plug-in to access and display one or more informative displays to the user.

14. The Internet Portal of claim 12 wherein the informative displays comprise one or more advertisements.

15. The Internet Portal of claim 11 wherein the Portal software, interacting with a logged-on user, upon the user creating a new account at a WEB site and providing a pre-determined signal, automatically adds the new destination for the user's Portal page.

16. The Internet Portal of claim 11 wherein the Portal periodically summarizes account information for accounts at destinations listed on the user's WEB page.

17. The Internet Portal of claim 16 wherein the summarization is automatic in period and scope, subject to edit by the user.

18. An Internet Portal application executable on an Internet-connected server, comprising:

a log-on facility adapted for users to enter log-on information from an Internet-connected appliance for access to the Portal application; and

5 a plurality of stored personal pages associated each with one or more specific users;

wherein individual personalized pages list plural Internet destinations enabled by hyperlinks, wherein upon invocation of a hyperlink by a user, the portal invokes a URL for the destination, and upon connection  
10 with the destination, transparently provides any required log-on information for user access at the destination.

19. The Internet Portal application of claim 18 wherein required log-on information includes a password, and wherein the password is stored at the  
15 Internet server in an encrypted form, and is exchanged with cooperating software at the user's appliance, where it is decrypted and passed on to the destination for log-on.

20. The Internet Portal application of claim 18 wherein, after transparent log-on to an invoked destination, the page at the destination is conveyed to  
20 and displayed for the user.

21. The Internet Portal application of claim 18 adapted to execute on a server hosted by an Internet Service Provider (ISP) to which the users  
25 subscribe.

22. The Internet Portal application of claim 18 further comprising a search function adapted to search selected ones of listed destinations in user's pages for defined search criteria.

23. The Internet Portal application of claim 18 wherein, after a user invokes a hyperlink, during navigation time to the invoked destination, the Portal software accesses and displays one or more informative displays to the user.

5        24. The Internet Portal application of claim 23 wherein the informative displays comprise one or more advertisements.

25. The Internet Portal application of claim 18 wherein the Portal application, interacting with a logged-on user, upon the user creating a new  
10        account at a WEB site and providing a pre-determined signal, automatically adds the new destination for the user's Portal page.

26. The Internet Portal application of claim 18 wherein the Portal periodically summarizes account information for accounts at destinations  
15        listed on the user's WEB page.

27. The Internet Portal application of claim 26 wherein the summarization is automatic in period and scope, subject to edit by the user.

20        28. An Internet Portal application executable on an Internet-connected server, comprising:

          a log-on facility adapted for users to enter log-on information for access to the Portal application; and

          a plurality of stored personal pages associated each with one or more  
25        specific users;

          wherein the portal application interacts with a browser plug-in executing on a subscriber's Internet-connected appliance, such that, when the user invokes a destination from the browser, wherein the destination requires a secure log-on, the portal software cooperates with the browser

plug-in to furnish the data necessary for a successful log-on transparent to the user.

5 29. The Internet Portal application of claim 28 wherein required log-on information includes a password, and wherein the password is stored at the Internet Portal in an encrypted form, and is exchanged with cooperating software at the user's appliance, where it is decrypted and passed on to the destination for log-on.

10 30. The Internet Portal application of claim 28 adapted to execute on a server hosted by an Internet Service Provider (ISP) to which the users subscribe.

15 31. The Internet Portal application of claim 28 wherein, after a user invokes a hyperlink, during navigation time to the invoked destination, the Portal software, in cooperation with the browser plug-in, accesses and displays one or more informative displays to the user.

20 32. The Internet Portal application of claim 31 wherein the informative displays comprise one or more advertisements.

25 33. The Internet Portal application of claim 28 wherein the Portal application, interacting with a logged-on user, upon the user creating a new account at a WEB site and providing a pre-determined signal, automatically adds the new destination for the user's Portal page.

30 34. The Internet Portal application of claim 28 wherein the Portal periodically summarizes account information for accounts at destinations listed on the user's WEB page.

35. The Internet Portal of claim 34 wherein the summarization is automatic in period and scope, subject to edit by the user.

36. A method for accessing and interacting with WEB pages on the Internet, comprising steps of:

(a) using an Internet-capable appliance, logging on to a Portal server, which returns a personalized page for the user logging on, the personalized page having listed plural Internet destinations enabled by hyperlinks;

(b) selecting a hyperlink in the personalized page, thereby invoking a URL for a destination, and, upon connection to the destination, automatically providing user log-on information for the user; and

(c) interacting with the page automatically provided.

37. The method of claim 36 wherein the Portal server is a part of an Internet Service Provider (ISP).

38. The method of claim 36 further comprising a step for invoking a search function adapted to search selected ones of listed destinations for defined search criteria.

39. A method for accessing and interacting with WEB pages on the Internet, comprising steps of:

(a) using an Internet-capable appliance, logging on to a Portal server as a subscriber, the portal server storing data associated with Internet destinations frequently accessed by the subscriber;

(a) using a browser with a plug-in for interacting with a Portal server executing on the Internet-capable appliance, invoking a URL to a destination WEB page;

(b) upon being presented with a log-in interface by the destination WEB page, calling the Portal server by the plug-in; and

(c) furnishing necessary log-in data by the Portal server, and accomplishing secure log-in for the subscriber substantially transparently to the subscriber.